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# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

In re:	)	Chapter 11
	)	
ORIUS CORP., et al.,	)	Case No. 05-63876
	)	(Jointly Administered)
Debtors,	)	•
	)	Hon. Bruce W. Black
	)	
	)	Hearing Date: February 28, 2007
	)	Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.

#### NOTICE OF MOTION AND NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: See Attached Service List

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Wednesday, February 28, 2007 at 9:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, we shall appear before the Honorable Bruce W. Black, United States Bankruptcy Judge, in the room usually occupied by him as a Courtroom in the Everett McKinley Dirksen United States Courthouse, 219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, or in his absence, before such other Judge who may be sitting in his place and stead and hearing bankruptcy motions, and shall then and there present the Final Fee Application of Lord Bissell & Brook LLP as Counsel for Orius Corp. for Allowance of Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses, Limited Notice and Related Relief, a copy of which was served upon you on January 19, 2007, and shall pray for the entry of an order in conformity with the prayer of said application.

Dated: January 19, 2007 Respectfully submitted,

LORD BISSELL & BROOK LLP

/s/ Aaron C. Smith
One of their attorneys

Forrest B. Lammiman Timothy W. Brink Aaron C. Smith Timothy S. McFadden Folarin S. Dosunmu Lord, Bissell & Brook LLP 115 South LaSalle Street Chicago, IL 60603 Tel: (312) 443-0675

Tel: (312) 443-0675 Fax: (312) 443-6295

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Aaron C. Smith, hereby certify that I caused copies of the foregoing Final Fee Application of Lord Bissell & Brook LLP as Counsel for Orius Corp. for Allowance of Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses, Limited Notice and Related Relief to be served upon the parties listed on the attached Service List, by first-class United States Mail, postage-prepaid, on this 19th day of January, 2007.

/s/ Aaron C. Smith

Aaron C. Smith

Forrest B. Lammiman Timothy W. Brink Aaron C. Smith Timothy S. McFadden Folarin S. Dosunmu Lord, Bissell & Brook LLP 115 South LaSalle Street Chicago, IL 60603

Tel: (312) 443-0675 Fax: (312) 443-6295

#### GENERAL SERVICE LIST

# **United States Trustee**

**United States Trustee** 227 West Monroe Street **Suite 3350** 

Chicago, Illinois 60606 Fax: (312) 886-5794

#### **Agent to the Prepetition Lenders**

Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as Administrative Agent 31 West 52nd Street New York, NY 10020 Attention: Robert Wood

#### **Governmental Agencies**

Fax: (212) 797-5695

Illinois Department of Employment Security Bankruptcy Unit 33 South State Street Chicago, IL 60603 Attn: Darrell Johnson Telephone: (312) 793-9475

Fax: (312)793-4350

Internal Revenue Service 230 S. Dearborn Street, Mail Stop 5010 CHI

Attn: Genora Reed Chicago, IL 60604 Fax: (312) 566-2826

Illinois Department of Revenue Bankruptcy Section, Level 7-425 100 W. Randolph Street Chicago, IL 60601

Telephone: (312) 814-3704

Fax: (312) 814-4045

### **Prepetition Lenders' Counsel**

Matthew J. Botica Winston & Strawn LLP 35 West Wacker Drive Chicago, Illinois 60601-9703

Fax: (312) 558-5700 mbotica@winston.com

#### **Creditors' Committee Counsel**

Harley J. Goldstein Aaron L. Hammer Thomas R. Fawkes Joji Takada

FREEBORN & PETERS LLP 311 South Wacker Drive, Suite 3000

Chicago, IL 60606-6677 Telephone: (312) 360-6520

Fax: (312) 360-6520

#### **Buyers and Counsel to the Buyers**

Hilco Industrial, LLC Attn: Eric W. Kaup, Esq. One Northbrook Place 5 Revere Drive Suite j206

Northbrook, iL 60062

Email: ekaup@hilcotrading.com

Fax: (847) 897-0766

Schatz Enterprises, Inc. Attn: David Schatz P.O. Box 92

700 Schatz Lane Sullivan, MO 63080 Fax: (636) 742-4990

Michael E. Kaemmerer McCarthy, Leonard, Kaemmerer, Own, McGovern & Striler, L.C. Counsel for Schatz Enterprises, Inc. 400 South Woods Mill Road - Suite 250 Chesterfield, MO 63017

#### **Parties Requesting Notice**

Fax: (314) 392-5221

Kevin B. Duff Edwin L. Durham RACHLIS, DURHAM, DUFF & ADLER, LLC

**Counsel for Qwest Corporation** 542 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 1310 Chicago IL 60605

Telephone: (312) 733-3390

Fax: (312) 733-3952 kduff@rddlaw.net eldurham@rddlaw.net

John Stine

GE Commercial Finance Capital Solutions Operations Counsel Special Assets 10 Riverway Drive Danbury, CT 06812 Telephone: (203) 749-6734

Fax: (203) 749-4530 Email: john.stine@ge.com

Brian J. Farrell Patrick C. Wilson

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE Counsel for City of Santa Rosa, California

100 Santa Rosa Avenue - Room 8

Santa Rosa, CA 95402 Telephone: 707-543-3040 Fax: (707) 543-3055

Jay A. Kohler

Counsel for K&M Services d/b/a K/M Services

482 Constitution Way, Suite 313

Idaho Falls, ID 83402 Telephone: 208-524-3272 Andrew H. Sherman

SILLS CUMMIS EPSTEIN & GROSS PC

**Counsel for Qwest Corporation** 

One Riverfront Plaza Newark, New Jersey 07102 Telephone: (973) 643-7000

Fax: (973) 643-6500

asherman@ sillscummis.com

Randall M. Smith

**SMITH & BROCKHAGE, LLP** 

Counsel for City of Santa Rosa, California

3480 Buskirk Avenue, Suite 200 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Telephone: (925) 296-0636

Fax: (925) 296-0640

Gene R. Clark

HSBC Mortgage Services 1270 Northland Drive, Suite 200

Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Darryl S. Laddin Frank N. White

Arnall Golden Gregory LLP 171 17th Street NW, Suite 210 Atlanta, GA 30363-1031

Fax: (404) 873-8121

Fax: (208) 524-3619

Big Shot Underground Utility Specialists, LLC

Robert Cowherd

CHAPMAN, COWHERD, TURNER & TSCHANNEN, P.C.

903 Jackson Street Chillicothe, MO 64601 Telephone: 660-646-0627 Fax: (660) 646-1105

Email: dthompson@ccttlaw.com

Eric S. Prezant, Esq Leslie Allen Bayles, Esq.

VEDDER, PRICE, KAUFMAN &

KAMMHOLZ, P.C.

**Counsel for Delaine Randall** 

222 North LaSalle Street

**Suite 2600** 

Chicago, IL 60601-1003 Telephone: (312) 609-7500

Fax: (312) 609-5005 eprezant@vedderprice.com lbayles@vedderprice.com

Elizabeth Weller

LINEBARGER GOGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP

**Counsel for Dallas County** 

2323 Bryan Street

**Suite 1600** 

Dallas, TX 75201

Telephone: (214) 880-0089

Fax: (469) 221-5002

Email: dallas.bankruptcy@publicans.com

Michael M. Eidelman

Ryan O. Lawlor

VEDDER, PRICE, KAUFMAN & KAUFMAN & KAMHOLZ, P.C.

**Local Counsel for Idaho Power Company** 

222 North LaSalle Street

**Suite 2600** 

Chicago, IL 60601-1003 Telephone: (312) 609-7500 Facsimile: (312) 609-5005 Mary E. Lopinot

MATHIS, MARIFIAN, RICHTER &

GRANDY, LTD.

**Counsel for Delaine Randall** 

23 Public Square, Suite 300

P.O. Box 307

Beleville, IL 62220

Telephone: (618) 234-9800

Fax: (618) 234-9786

Harold E. McKee Mary E. Gardner

RIORDAN, DONNELLY, LIPINSKI &

MCKEE LTD.

**Counsel for Diversified Directional Boring,** 

**Inc. and Facteon, Inc.** 10 North Dearborn Street

4th Floor

Chicago, IL 60602

Telephone: (312) 663-9400

Fax: (312) 663-1028

Jed W. Manwaring, Esq. **EVANS KEANE LLP** 

**Counsel for Idaho Power Company** 

P.O. Box 959

1405 West Main Street

Boise, ID 83701

Telephone: (208) 384-1800

Fax: (208) 345-3514

Email: jmanwaring@evanskeane.com

Patricia E. Rademacher

Jennifer Rojas

**COSTON & RADEMACHER** 

**Counsel for General Electric Capital** 

Corporation

105 West Adams

Suite #1400

Chicago, IL 60603

Telephone: (312) 205-1010

Fax: (312) 205-1011

Email: meidelman@vedderprice.com

rlawlor@vedderprice.com

Kenneth A. Cripe, Esq. **CONWAY & MROWIEC** 

20 S. Clark Street

Suite 750

Chicago, IL 60603

Telephone: (312) 658-1100 Fax: (312) 658-1201

kac@cmcontractors.com

Richard G. Jensen

FABYANSKE, WESTRA, HART & THOMSON, P.A.

800 N. LaSalle Avenue, Suite 1900

Minneapolis, MN 55402 Telephone: (612) 359-7600

Fax: (612) 338-3857

Brian J. Farrell Patrick C. Wilson

**CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE** 

Counsel for City of Santa Rosa, California

100 Santa Rosa Avenue - Room 8

Santa Rosa, CA 95402 Telephone: 707-543-3040 Fax: (707) 543-3055

John F. West

VINSON & ELKINS, L.L.P. **Counsel for RLI Insurance Company** 

2300 First City Tower 1001 Fannin Street Houston, TX 77002

Fax: (713) 615-5841 Email: jwest@velaw.com Email: prademacher@costonlaw.com

jrojas@costonlaw.com

Mark Sorrentino

State of Maryland Department of Labor,

Licensing and Regulation

Office of Unemployment Insurance

Contributions Division

Litigation and Prosecution Unit

1100 North Eutaw Street

Room 401

Baltimore, MD 21201 Fax: (410) 333-5059

Steven A. Ginther

Missouri Department of Revenue

General Counsel's Office

301 W. High Street, Room 670

P.O. Box 475

Jefferson City, MO 65105-0475

Telephone: (573) 751-5531

Fax: (573) 751-7232

Francis X. Buckley, Jr.

Seth A. Albin

THOMPSON COBURN LLP

**Counsel for Gahr Line and Cable LLC** 

One U.S. Bank Plaza St. Louis, MO 63101 Telephone: (314) 552-6010

Fax: (314) 552-7010

fbuckley@thompsoncoburn.com salbin@thompsoncoburn.com

Anthony L. Leffert

**ROBINSON WATERS O'DORISIO** 

1099 18th Street - Suite 2600 Denver, CO 80202-1926

Fax: (303) 297-2750

# COUNSEL FOR CASE CREDIT CORPORATION

Gary E. Green
William Kent Carter
FAGEL HABER LLC
Counsel for Case Credit Corporation

55 East Monroe Street Chicago, IL 60603

Telephone: (312) 346-7500 Fax: (312) 782-7115 ggreen@fagelhaber.com

wcarter@fagelhaber.com

340 W. Butterfield Road

Amy Galvin Grogan

GARELLI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Suite 2A

Elmhurst, IL 60126

As Counsel for Defendant: Collins Consulting, Inc.

Telephone: 630-833-5533

Fax: 630-833-6855

Qwest Corporation Attn: Mark D. Schmidt 700 Mineral Ave., MN B1429

Littleton, CO 80120 Telephone: 303-707-2774 Fax: 303-707-7448

Kristine Stamps c/o Qwest Services Corporation 200 S. 5th Street, Suite 2300 Minneapolis, MN 55402 Bankruptcy Administration IKON Financial Services 1738 Bass Road P.O. Box 1378

Macon, GA 31208-3708 Telephone: (478) 405-4001

Fax: (478) 405-4043

John P. Dillman

LINEBARGER COGGAN BLAIR & SAMPSON, LLP

1301 Travis St #300 Houston, TX 77002

**As Counsel for Defendants:** 

Harris County
Dallas County
City of Houston ISD

Telephone: 713-844-3478

Fax: 713-844-3503

houston\_bankruptcy@publicans.com

Howard A. Wolf-Rodda

EPSTEIN BECKER & GREEN, P.C.

1227 25th Street, N.W.

Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20037

**As Counsel for Defendant:** 

Field Support Services, Inc.

Telephone: 202-861-1899

Fax: 202-861-3535

Hans U. Stucki Kevin J. Ryan

EPSTEIN BECKER & GREEN, P.C.

150 N. Michigan Avenue Chicago, IL 60601

**As Counsel for Defendant:** 

Field Support Services, Inc.

Telephone: 312-845-1948

Fax: 312-845-1998

Tennessee Department of Revenue c/o TN Attorney General's Office, Bankruptcy Division P.O. Box 20207 Nashville, TN 37202-0207 Telephone: 615-532-2504

Fax: 615-741-3334

Timothy L. Binetti

RIFFNER, BARBER, ROWDEN &

**MANASSA** 

1834 Walden Office Square

Suite 500

Schaumburg, IL 60173 Telephone: 847-303-0107

Fax: 847-303-6621

**As Counsel for Defendants:** 

3C Construction & Landscape, Inc.

JT&T

Beckstrom Construction Leeb Underground LLC Christensen Utilities Metro Underground, Inc. Direct Buried Construction, Inc.
Hanco Utilities
Metropolitan Underground
Services, Inc.
Eagle West, Inc.
Mudman Utilities, Inc.
Red Line Tech LLC

# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

In re:		) Chapter 11			
ORIUS CORP.	, et al., Debtors,	) ) ) )	Case No. 05-63876 (Jointly Administered Cases) Hon. Bruce W. Black		
COVER S	HEET FOR APP	) ) ) LICATION FOR	Hearing Date: February Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.		
Name of Applica			Lord, Bissell & Broo		
Authorized to Pr	ovide Professional S	Services to:	Orius Corp. and its r	elated debtor entities	
Date of Order A	uthorizing Employn	nent:	January 3, 2006 effective December 12, 2005		
Period for Which	n Compensation is S	ought:	•	May 1, 2005 through December 21, 2005	
Amount of Fees	Sought:		\$1,646,484.10		
Amount of Expe	nse Reimbursement	Sought:	\$91,059.75		
This is a(n): Interim Application X Final Application			Final Application		
If this is <u>not</u> the applications:	first application filed	d herein filed by this	s professional, disclose as to	all prior fee	
Date Filed	Period Covered	Total Requesto (Fees and Expen	I	Any Amount Ordered Withheld	
July 13, 2006	December 12, 20045 through April 30, 2006	\$1,598,474.5	1 1,595,114.75	\$3,359.76	
	amount of fees and acurred herein is \$		the Applicant to date for s	ervices rendered	
Applicant:		Lord, Bissell & Brook LLP			
Date: January	19, 2007	By:/s/ Aaron C. Smith			

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# IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS EASTERN DIVISION

In re:	)	Chapter 11
	)	
ORIUS CORP., et al.,	)	Case No. 05-63876
	)	(Jointly Administered)
Debtors,	)	•
	)	Hon. Bruce W. Black
	)	
	)	Hearing Date: February 28, 2007
	)	Hearing Time: 9:30 a.m.
		_

# FINAL FEE APPLICATION OF LORD BISSELL & BROOK LLP AS COUNSEL FOR ORIUS CORP. FOR ALLOWANCE OF COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES, LIMITED NOTICE AND RELATED RELIEF

Forrest B. Lammiman and the law firm of Lord, Bissell & Brook LLP (collectively, "Lord Bissell") apply to this Court pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §§ 327, 330 and 331, Rules 2002(a)(6), 2016(a), 9006(c)(1) and 9007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and Local Bankruptcy Rule 5082-1 for the allowance of \$1,646,484.10 in compensation for 4,719 hours of professional services rendered as counsel to Orius Corp. and its affiliates (collectively, the "Debtors")<sup>1</sup> for the period May 1, 2006 through and including December 21, 2006 (the "Application Period"), and the reimbursement of \$91,059.75 for actual costs incurred incident to those services. In addition, Lord, Bissell requests that additional notice to all creditors of the hearing on this application (the "Application") be waived. In support of this Application, Lord Bissell states as follows:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors in the above-captioned case are Orius Corp., NATG Holdings, LLC, Orius Telecom Services, Inc., Orius Telecommunications Services, Inc., Orius Central Office Services, Inc., Texor, Inc., CATV Subscriber Services, Inc., Hattech, Inc., Channel Communications, Inc., LISN, Inc., Copenhagen Utilities & Construction, Inc., LISN Company, and U.S. Cable, Inc.

#### **BACKGROUND**

- 1. On December 12, 2005 (the "Petition Date"), each of the Debtors filed its respective voluntary petition for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code, 11 U.S.C. §§ 101-1532 (as amended, the "Bankruptcy Code") with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois (the "Court"), commencing the above-captioned chapter 11 cases. The Debtors continue to operate their business and manage their properties as debtors in possession pursuant to sections 1107(c) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 2. On December 21, 2005, the Office of the Untied States Trustee appointed the Committee pursuant to section 1102 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 3. On November 16, 2006 the Court confirmed the Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation (the "Plan") which thereafter became effective on December 21, 2006.
- 4. This Court has jurisdiction over this Application pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. This matter is a core proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2).

#### RETENTION OF LORD BISSELL

5. On December 13, 2006, the Debtors applied to this Court for an order approving the retention of Lord Bissell as their counsel in connection with their bankruptcy cases (collectively, the "Cases"). On January 3, 2006, this Court entered an order (the "Retention Order") approving the retention of Lord Bissell as counsel to the Debtors. A copy of the Retention Order is attached hereto as Exhibit A. The Retention Order authorized Lord Bissell to seek interim compensation and reimbursement of expenses pursuant to this Court's Order Establishing Professional Fee Application Procedures dated January 3, 2006 (the "Interim Compensation Order").

6. On August 29, 2006, the Court entered its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in Support of Order Awarding to Lord Bissell & Brook, LLP, Attorneys for Orius Corp., for Allowance and Payment of Interim Compensation and Reimbursement of Expenses (the "<u>First Order Awarding Compensation and Expenses</u>)" in which the Court awarded Lord Bissell compensation totaling \$1,481,039.00 and expenses totaling \$114,075.75 for services provided by Lord Bissell for the benefit of the Debtors from December 12, 2004 through and including April 30, 2006.

# **GENERAL STATUS OF THE CASES**

- 7. Prior to the Petition Date, the Debtors were a nationwide provider of construction, deployment, and maintenance services to customers operating within the telecommunications, broadband, gas, and electric utilities, as well as several government industries. The Debtors' principal office was located in Barrington, Illinois, but the Debtors also had major offices in metropolitan St. Louis, Minneapolis, Boise, and Portland. On the Petition Date, the Debtors employed approximately 700 employees in 15 states.
- 8. From the inception of these cases, the Debtors anticipated a sale of their assets. Accordingly, on the Petition Date, the Debtors filed a motion that (i) requested the Court's approval of an auction, and bidding procedures for such auction, based upon a prepetition "stalking horse" bid obtained by the Debtors from a potential buyer of the Debtors' fixed assets, and (ii) sought the Court's approval of the sale of the Debtors fixed assets free and clear of liens, claims and encumbrances. Following a competitive bidding process pursuant to bidding procedures approved by the Court, on February 16, 2006 the Court approved the sale of substantially all of the Debtors' fixed assets (the "Sale") for \$8.9 million to a joint venture composed of (i) Schatz Enterprises, Inc. ("Schatz") and (ii) a joint venture composed of Hilco Industries LLC and Rabin Worldwide ("Hilco-Rabin"). The Sale closed effective as of March 1,

2006. The proceeds of the Sale are subject to first priority liens asserted by Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas, as agent (the "Agent") for the lenders (the "Lenders") party to that certain Credit Agreement dated as of January 23, 2003.

9. Since vacating their principal office, the Debtors relocated to a temporary space in suburban Chicago, where John Starr, the Debtors' former Vice President of Finance and Secretary and only remaining employee, facilitated the liquidation of the Debtors' remaining assets. On November 16, 2006 the Court confirmed the Debtors' Plan, which thereafter became effective on December 21, 2006 (the "Effective Date"). Through the Effective Date, Lord Bissell continued to analyze and resolve objections to claims filed by creditors in these cases, pursued litigation on behalf of the Debtors, and worked toward satisfying all conditions precedent to making the Plan effective. After the Effective Date, Lord Bissell continued its services relating to the Debtors' cases on behalf of John Starr, as trustee of the Orius Liquidating Trust.

#### SERVICES RENDERED BY LORD BISSELL GENERALLY

- 10. During the Application Period, Lord Bissell attorneys and paralegals spent 4,719 hours providing professional services on behalf of the Debtors in connection with these cases. The fees for these services total \$1,646,484.10, which equates to a blended rate of \$348.90 per hour of service. All of the services for which compensation is requested were services that, in Lord Bissell's billing judgment, were necessarily rendered after due consideration of the expected cost and anticipated benefit of such services.
- 11. Lord Bissell has been instrumental in preserving, liquidating, and protecting the Debtors' assets in a manner most likely to maximize their value for the benefit of the Debtors' creditors. Among other services provided by Lord Bissell during the Application Period, Lord Bissell assisted the Debtors in recovering accounts receivable totaling \$3,451,493, out of a total

\$7,388,474 in accounts receivables outstanding at the beginning of the Application Period. Lord Bissell also assisted in analyzing and, when necessary, objecting to claims filed against the Debtors' estates. For instance, approximately \$8,700,000 priority claims were filed against the Debtors' estates. On behalf of the Debtors, Lord Bissell objected to many of these priority claims, the result, through settlement or adjudication of these objections, is that the total allowed priority claims asserted against the Debtors was reduced to approximately \$450,000. Finally, during the Application Period, Lord Bissell, on behalf of the Debtors, negotiated, drafted, and successfully sought confirmation of the Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation.

12. In evaluating this Application, this Court should consider the value of the services rendered by Lord Bissell on behalf of the Debtors and the Debtors' estates, the nature and complexity of the issues presented, the skill required to perform the legal services properly, the customary fees charged by other professionals in these cases and in similar cases, the experience and ability of the attorneys involved, and the amount of awards of compensation in similar cases. These factors, whether viewed individually or collectively, support an award of the compensation sought in this Application.

#### SERVICES RENDERED BY LORD BISSELL

13. Lord Bissell provided professional services to the Debtors with respect to virtually every aspect of the Debtors' cases. All of the services for which compensation is requested were services that, in Lord Bissell's judgment, were necessarily rendered after due consideration of the expected costs and anticipated benefits of such services. Attached to this Application as Exhibits B through O<sup>2</sup> are detailed statements of the services rendered by Lord Bissell and the amounts of time spent by Lord Bissell professionals in providing these services. All of the time described in Exhibits B through O represent the actual amount of time spent by

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The monthly statements, which are voluminous, will be made available in hard copy or in PDF format upon reasonable request.

attorneys and paralegals of Lord Bissell who rendered the described services. <u>Exhibit P</u> sets forth the expenses incurred incident to these services.

14. In an effort to provide the Court and parties in interest with understandable information concerning the amount and nature of Lord Bissell's services during the Application Period, and in compliance with Local Bankruptcy Rule 5082-1, Lord Bissell has classified its services into fourteen (14) separate categories of services as follows:

Description	Total Hours	Total Fees Incurred
Case Administration	45.30	\$8,706.50
Asset Analysis and Recovery	95.40	\$40,591.00
Asset Disposition	52.20	\$18,382.60
Relief From Stay/Adequate	57.50	\$19,868.00
Protection Proceedings		
Meetings of and Communications	3.40	\$2,108.00
with Creditors		
Fee/Employment Applications	213.40	\$75,712.50
Assumption/Rejection of Leases	30.60	\$10,038.50
and Contracts		
Other Contested Matters	1,544.80	\$593,748.00
Business Operations	99.80	\$41,093.50
Financing/Cash Collateral	11.10	\$5,052.00
Tax Issues	7.20	\$3,087.00
Board of Directors Matters	23.90	\$12,736.50
Claims Administration and	1,900.20	\$554,975.50
Objections		
Plan and Disclosure Statement	634.40	\$258,464.50
TOTAL	4,719.00	\$1,646,484.10

15. The following is a separate description of each of Lord Bissell's principal categories of activities, which generally describe the tasks performed. Each of the monthly invoices previously provided by the Debtors to this Court and other parties entitled to notice thereof pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order provide: (a) detailed descriptions of all services rendered in each of the above categories and (b) the timekeeper, date and amount of time expended in each category. Summary charts for each such category setting forth each

professional who rendered services in each category, the amount of time spent by each such professional in providing these services, and the value of these services, are set forth below.

# **Case Administration**

\$87,706.50 during the Application Period in connection with services pertaining to general case administration. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following: (a) assisting with the preparation of monthly operating reports; (b) updating schedules of proofs of claim; (c) preparing and updating the list of creditors requesting notice in the Debtors' cases; (d) assisting in the compliance with United States Trustee requirements; and (e) providing miscellaneous services for the benefit of the Debtors that are not otherwise categorized in this Application. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit B. Moreover, the chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to case administration, as well as the corresponding dollar value for those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	.80	\$368.00
Folarin Dosunmu	.60	\$147.00
Francis Rowinski	43.50	\$8,047.50
Aaron Smith	.40	\$144.00
TOTAL	45.30	\$8,706.50

#### **Asset Analysis and Recovery**

17. Lord Bissell expended 95.4 hours of professional services having a value of \$40,591.00 during the Application Period in connection with services pertaining to asset analysis and recovery of assets. Much of this time was spent analyzing and recovering amounts owed to

the Debtors by their customers for services provided by the Debtors for the benefit of these customers, and negotiating and drafting stipulations with these customers to effectuate the transfer of accounts receivable to the Debtors in return for a mechanism to ensure that these customers' rights under state law and under relevant contracts were preserved. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit C. Moreover, the chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to asset analysis and recovery of assets, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	1.20	\$552.00
Norris Clark	.40	\$220.00
Folarin Dosunmu	2.90	\$710.00
Katherine Harris	12.10	\$3,146.00
Tracie Jarmu-Greene	2.60	\$507.00
Forrest Lammiman	43.50	\$26,970.00
Timothy McFadden	5.50	\$1,650.00
Travis Rojakovick	21.90	\$4,927.50
Aaron Smith	5.30	\$1,908.00
TOTAL	95.40	\$40,591.00

#### **Asset Disposition**

18. Lord Bissell expended 52.20 hours of professional services having a value of \$18,382.60 during the Application Period in connection with services pertaining to the disposition of assets. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following: (a) participating in post-closing activities concerning the Sale; (b) effectuating the sale of the Debtors' remaining assets after the Sale; and (c) working on the return of certain letter of credit proceeds. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit D.

Moreover, the chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to the disposition of assets, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	7.90	\$3,634.00
Mark Goodman	1.40	\$719.60
Katherine Harris	14.20	\$3,692.00
David Kendall	3.00	\$1,440.00
Forrest Lammiman	7.00	\$4,340.00
Timothy McFadden	1.60	\$480.00
Travis Rojakovick	15.40	\$3,465.00
Aaron Smith	1.70	\$612.00
TOTAL	52.20	\$18,382.60

# **Relief from Stay/Adequate Protection Proceedings**

19. Lord Bissell expended 57.50 hours of professional services having a value of \$19,868.00 during the Application Period in connection with services relating to termination or continuation of the automatic stay under section 362 of the Bankruptcy Code and the provision of adequate protection. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following: (a) negotiating, drafting, and/or responding to motions to lift the automatic stay; and (b) notifying certain creditors of potential violations of the automatic stay. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit E. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to relief from stay/adequate protection proceedings, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	15.30	\$7,038.00
Folarin Dosunmu	4.70	\$1,151.50
Forrest Lammiman	2.90	\$1,798.00
Timothy McFadden	26.50	\$7,950.00

Travis Rojakovick,	7.30	\$1,642.50
Aaron Smith	.80	\$288.00
TOTAL	57.50	\$19,868.00

#### **Meetings of and Communications with Creditors**

20. Lord Bissell expended 3.40 hours of professional services having a value of \$2,108.00 during the Application Period in connection with services relating to meetings of and communications with creditors. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following: (a) communicating with creditors; and (b) communicating with the Creditors' Committee and the Lenders. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit F. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to meetings of and communications with creditors, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Forrest Lammiman	3.40	\$2,108.00
TOTAL	3.40	\$2,108.00

#### **Fee and Employment Applications**

21. Lord Bissell expended 213.40 hours of professional services having a value of \$75,712.50 during the Application Period in connection with services relating to fee and employment applications. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following: (a) drafting interim fee notices for Lord Bissell and other professionals employed by the Debtors in these cases pursuant to the Order Establishing Professional Fee Application Procedures granted in this case on January 3, 2006; (b) drafting the First Interim Fee Application of Lord Bissell & Brook LLP as Counsel for Orius Corp. for Allowance of Compensation and

Reimbursement of Expenses, Limited Notice and Related Relief filed by the Debtors on July 13, 2006; and (c) drafting applications to employ certain professionals employed by the Debtors in these cases. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit G. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to fee and employment applications, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	13.90	\$6,394.00
Folarin Dosunmu	16.50	\$4,042.50
Katherine Harris	6.20	\$1,612.00
Forrest Lammiman	16.70	\$10,354.00
Timothy McFadden	72.10	\$21,630.00
Aaron Smith	88.00	\$31,680.00
TOTAL	213.40	\$75,712.50

# **Assumption and Rejection of Leases and Contracts**

22. Lord Bissell expended 30.60 hours of professional services having a value of \$10,038.50 during the Application Period in connection with services relating to the assumption and rejection of leases and contracts. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following: (a) examining and reviewing unexpired leases and executory contracts and conferences with the Debtors to determine which of such unexpired leases and executory contracts should be assumed and assigned or rejected; (b) conducting an analysis of rejection damages relating to the rejection of leases and contracts; and (c) filing motions to assume or reject certain unexpired leases and executory contracts. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit H. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of

time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to

Assumption/Rejection of Leases and Contracts, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	5.60	\$2,576.00
Forrest Lammiman	1.10	\$682.00
Tim McFadden	19.80	\$5,940.00
Travis Rojakovick	.30	\$67.50
Francis Rowinski	3.40	\$629.00
Aaron Smith	.40	\$144.00
TOTAL	30.60	\$10.038.50

#### **Other Contested Matters**

\$593,748.00 during the Application Period relating to analysis and preparation of all motions not otherwise characterized in this Motion, oppositions to motions not otherwise characterized in this Application, and reply memoranda in support of such motions, and pursuing litigation on behalf of the Debtors that is not otherwise characterized in this Application. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following: (a) drafting, filing, serving, and presenting various motions, pleadings, and orders not covered by specific categories in this Application; (b) discussing motions, pleadings, and orders not covered by specific categories in this Application with the Debtors, the Lenders, and the Creditors' Committee; (c) pursuing litigation on behalf of the Debtors in jurisdictions other than the Northern District of Illinois; (d) pursuing litigation against certain of the Debtors' customers who refused to pay amounts owed to the Debtors by these customers; (e) analyzing potential actions to avoid preferential transfers; (f) participating in omnibus hearings, meetings, telephone conferences, and other activities where multiple matters were discussed, analyzed, or otherwise acted upon; and (g) drafting stipulations

with certain of the Debtors' customers to ensure payment of all amounts owed by these customers to the Debtors. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit I. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to Other Contested Matters, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount	
Timothy Brink	96.60	\$44,436.00	
Folarin Dosunmu	59.50	\$14,577.50	
Katherine Harris	94.80	\$24,648.00	
Brian Hays	5.20	\$1,794.00	
Patrick Jones	2.60	\$936.00	
David Kendall	2.00	\$960	
Forrest Lammiman	323.10	\$200,322.00	
Timothy McFadden	313.90	\$94,170.00	
Travis Rojakovick	155.10	\$34,897.50	
Francis Rowinski	3.00	\$555.00	
Aaron Smith	478.70	\$172,332.00	
Joshua Wayser	10.30	\$4,120.00	
TOTAL	1,544.80	\$593,155.10	

#### **Business Operations**

24. Lord Bissell expended 99.80 hours of professional services having a value of \$41,093.50 during the Application Period on services relating to the operation of the Debtors' business while in chapter 11. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following: (a) analyzing issues relating to various performance bonds that impacted the Debtors; (b) working with the Debtors' management on various personnel issues; (c) work on various issues relating to the Debtors' insurance program; (d) analyzing the Debtors' accounts receivable and facilitating the recovery of these accounts receivable; and (e) conferring with the Debtors' management regarding daily operations. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a

detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit J. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to the Debtors' business operations, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Jonathan Bank	.40	\$224.00
Timothy Brink	1.40	\$644.00
Folarin Dosunmu	5.00	\$1,225.00
Mark Goodman	2.00	\$1,028.00
Katherine Harris	5.80	\$1,508.00
David Kendall	11.50	\$5,520.00
Patricia Knorre	.90	\$171.00
Forrest Lammiman	26.70	\$16,554.00
Timothy McFadden	20.60	\$6,180.00
Travis Rojakovick	5.20	\$1,170.00
Francis Rowinski	1.50	\$277.50
Ingrid Scheckel	1.10	\$220.00
Aaron Smith	17.70	\$6,372.00
TOTAL	99.80	\$41,093.50

#### **Financing and Cash Collections**

25. Lord Bissell expended 11.1 hours of professional services having a value of \$5,052.00 during the Application Period on services relating to financing and cash collateral issues, including matters arising under sections 361, 363, and 364 of the Bankrutpcy Code such as cash collateral and secured claims. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following: (a) revising cash collateral motions and proposed orders; (b) correspondence with the Lenders regarding the use of their cash collateral; and (c) formulating a budget in these cases. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit K. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the

Application Period for services relating to financing and cash collections issues, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	1.20	\$552.00
Forrest Lammiman	3.60	\$2,232.00
Aaron Smith	6.30	\$2,268.00
TOTAL	11.10	\$5,052.00

#### **Tax Issues**

26. Lord Bissell expended 7.20 hours of professional services having a value of \$3,087.00 during the Application Period on services relating to the analysis of tax issues and providing advise to the Debtors regarding tax issues. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit L. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to these tax issues, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	1.60	\$736.00
Forrest Lammiman	1.60	\$992.00
Travis Rojakovick	2.30	\$517.50
John Truskowski	1.70	\$841.50
TOTAL	7.20	\$3,087.00

# **Board of Directors Matters**

27. Lord Bissell expended 23.90 hours of professional services having a value of \$12,736.50 during the Application Period on services relating to matters concerning the Debtors' Board of Directors, including the preparation of materials for, and attendance at, the Debtors' Board of Directors meetings, analysis and advice regarding corporate governance issues, and the

review and preparation of corporate documents. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit M. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to these Board of Directors matters, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	4.90	\$2,254.00
Folarin Dosunmu	.10	\$24.50
David Kendall	2.50	\$1,200.00
Forrest Lammiman	12.90	\$7,998.00
Aaron Smith	3.50	\$1,260
TOTAL	23.90	\$12,736.50

#### **Claims Administration and Objections**

\$554,975.50 during the Application Period on services relating to claims administration and preparing objections to claims asserted against the Debtors' estates. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following: (a) responding to specific inquiries by holders of claims against the Debtors' estates; (b) analyzing claims asserted against the Debtors' estates; (d) maintaining indexes of proofs of claim; and (e) negotiations with certain of the Debtors' subcontractors and suppliers who asserted claims against trust accounts established by the Debtors for the purpose of paying the claims of holders of valid lien claims against the Debtors, the Debtors' customers, or the Debtors' customers. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as <a href="Exhibit N">Exhibit N</a>. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to Claims Administration and Objections, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

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Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	144.60	\$66,516.00
Lynn Corbett	.40	\$54.00
Folarin Dosunmu	198.70	\$48,681.50
Katherine Harris	87.00	\$22,620.00
David Kendall	18.50	\$8,880.00
Patricia Knorre	1.20	\$228.00
Forrest Lammiman	123.80	\$76,756.00
Timothy McFadden	382.70	\$114,810.00
Travis Rojakovick	326.00	\$73,350.00
Francis Rowinski	452.00	\$83,620.00
Ingrid Scheckel	.30	\$60.00
Aaron Smith	165.00	\$59,400.00
TOTAL	1900.20	\$554,975.50

# **Plan and Disclosure Statement**

29. Lord Bissell expended 630.20 hours of professional services having a value of \$258,464.50 during the Application Period negotiating and drafting the Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation, the disclosure statement in support of the Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation, and the Orius Liquidation Trust Agreement. Services rendered by Lord Bissell in this category generally include the following:(a) negotiating the Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation and prior versions of this plan of liquidation, the disclosure statement in support of the Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation, and the Orius Liquidation Trust Agreement with the Lenders, the Committee, and certain creditors of the Debtors, and (b) drafting the Memorandum of Law in Support of Adequacy of the Disclosure Statement and Confirmation of Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation Proposed by the Debtors; and (c) responding to objections to confirmation of the Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation. As required by Local Rule 5082-1(c), a detailed statement of services rendered in connection with this subject matter is annexed to this Application as Exhibit O. The chart below is a summary of the total amount of time entered by each timekeeper during the Application Period for services relating to the Plan and Disclosure Statement, as well as the corresponding dollar value of those services.

Professional	Hours	Amount
Timothy Brink	13.70	\$6,302.00
Folarin Dosunmu	11.40	\$2,793.00
Katherine Harris	4.10	\$1,066.00
David Kendall	9.00	\$4,320.00
Forrest Lammiman	171.80	\$106,516.00
Timothy McFadden	75.90	\$22,770.00
Travis Rojakovick	16.80	\$3,780.00
Francis Rowinski	39.90	\$7,381.50
Aaron Smith	287.60	\$103,536.00
TOTAL	634.20	\$260,384.50

# **Summary of Services Rendered By Professional**

30. In summary, the total compensation sought for each professional with respect to the aforementioned categories is as follows:

Professional	Position	Rate	Hours	Amount
Jonathan Bank	Of Counsel	\$560	.4	\$224.00
Timothy Brink	Partner	\$460	308.70	\$142,002.00
Norris Clark	Specialist	\$550	.40	\$220.00
Lynn Corbett	Librarian	\$135	.40	\$54.00
Folarin Dosunmu	Associate	\$245	299.40	\$73,353.00
Mark Goodman	Partner	\$514	3.40	\$1,747.60
Katherine Harris	Associate	\$260	224.20	\$58,292.00
Brian Hays	Associate	\$345	5.20	\$1,794.00
Patrick Jones	Associate	\$360	2.60	\$936.00
Tracie Jermu-Greene	Paralegal	\$195	2.60	\$507.00
David Kendall	Partner	\$480	50.50	\$24,240.00
Patricia Knorre	Paralegal	\$190	2.10	\$399.00
Forrest Lammiman	Partner	\$620	738.10	\$457,622.00
Timothy McFadden	Associate	\$300	918.60	\$275,580.00
Travis Rojakovick	Associate	\$225	550.30	\$123,817.50
Ingrid Scheckel	Paralegal	\$200	1.40	\$280.00
Aaron Smith	Associate	\$360	1,055.40	\$379,944.00
John Truskowski	Partner	\$495	1.70	\$841.50
Joshua Wayser	Partner	\$400	10.30	\$4,120.00
TOTAL			4,719.00	\$1,646,484.10

- 31. The hourly rates charged by Lord Bissell with respect to the Debtors' chapter 11 cases compare favorably with the rates charged by other Chicago metropolitan firms having attorneys and paralegals with similar experience and expertise as the Lord Bissell professionals providing services to the Debtors in connection with these cases. Further, the amount of time spent by Lord Bissell with respect to Debtors' chapter 11 cases is reasonable given the difficulty of the issues presented, the time constraints imposed by the circumstances, the amounts at stake, the sophistication and experience of opposing counsels, and the ultimate benefit to the estates.
- 32. Lord Bissell has conscientiously attempted to avoid having multiple attorneys appear or confer on behalf of the Debtors. In certain circumstances, however, it was necessary for more than one Lord Bissell attorney to appear in Court at the same time. When possible, Lord Bissell would have one attorney handle multiple matters on the Court's calendar. Similarly, on certain occasions, Lord Bissell had more than one attorney attend a meeting to strategize on issues that had particular import on multiple areas of these cases. To the greatest extent possible, meetings, court appearances, negotiations and other matters were handled on an individual basis.
- 33. The issues presented by the Debtors' chapter 11 cases have been legally and factually complex, and the amounts at stake significant. Given the criteria set forth in section 330 of the Bankruptcy Code, namely (i) the nature, extent and value of the services; (ii) the time spent; (iii) the rates charged for such services; (iv) the performance of the services within a reasonable amount of time commensurate with the complexity, importance and nature of the problem, issue or task addressed; and (v) the reasonableness in other bankruptcy and non-bankruptcy matters, Lord Bissell respectfully submits that the requested interim compensation represents a fair and reasonable amount that should be allowed in full.

#### **EXPENSES**

- 34. The actual and necessary costs expended by Lord Bissell during the Application Period are detailed in Exhibit P. The requested reimbursement amount for expenses incurred by Lord Bissell is \$91,059.75. All of the expenses for which reimbursement is sought are expenses that Lord Bissell customarily recoups from all of its clients.
- 35. The specific expenses incurred during the Application Period for which reimbursement is requested are as follows:

Category	Amount
Photocopy	\$8,092.20
Outside Copy and Mail Service	\$38,512.00
PACER Fees	\$2,897.80
Local and Long Distance Telephone/Teleconference	\$186.58
Online Legal Research (Westlaw/Lexis/UCC Searches)	\$33,439.34
Commercial Messenger Delivery and Overnight Delivery	\$2,464.09
(Federal Express, UPS, etc.)	
Postage	\$1,760.11
Parking	\$24.00
Out of City Travel	\$852.43
Filing Fees	\$1,490.00
Process Server Fees	\$242.00
Transcripts	\$573.00
Lien Searches and Binding	\$526.20
TOTAL	\$91,059.75

36. <u>Photocopy</u>: Photocopy charges include internal and outsourced copies.

Generally, Lord Bissell makes all copies internally. Although Lord Bissell charges all of its clients a charge of \$.11 per page for all copies, Lord Bissell has voluntarily reduced its per page copy charge to \$.10 in order to comply with this Court's Standing Order No. 4. Lord Bissell maintains a record of copy charges made through a computerized system, which requires the operator to input a client's billing code on a keypad attached to the copier. Where a large copy job may be more efficiently conducted by an outside copying service, Lord Bissell charges the

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actual costs for this expense. Outsourced copying services may include binding or color copying.

- 37. Outside Copy and Mailing Service: During the Application Period, the Debtors were required to serve a number of documents and pleadings via "mass mailings" to all known parties-in-interest and creditors of the Debtors. Specifically, the Debtors were required to mail to all known creditors and parties-in-interest copies of the Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation, the disclosure statement in support of the Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation, and a notice of amendments to the Debtors' Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation. Each of these documents were required to be copied and mailed to thousands of creditors and parties-in-interest. Lord Bissell determined that it would be most efficient and beneficial to the Debtors' estates if an outside copy service, C2 Legal, copied these documents, placed them in envelopes, and mailed them to all known parties-in-interest. C2 Legal charged \$.10 per page to copy these documents, and charged \$.25 per recipient to create a label with each recipients' name, place these labels on envelopes, place the document to be served in each such envelope, and mail these envelopes. C2 Legal also passed on to the Debtors the United States postal service's standard rates for domestic and international mail as part of their fee. C2 Legal did not profit from these postal charges.
- 38. Lord Bissell and the Debtors determined that the rates charged by C2 Legal were standard in C2 Legal's industry and were less than those fees that would be charged by Lord Bissell if its attorneys and paralegals were required to oversee the service of these documents. Lord Bissell accordingly determined that it was in the best interests of the Debtors and their estates for C2 Legal to effectuate the copying and mailing of these documents.
- 39. <u>Legal Research Charges (Westlaw/PACER)</u>: Lord Bissell has negotiated a discounted contract for Westlaw services. Westlaw charges set forth in this Application reflect

the allocation of actual discounted expense incurred by Lord Bissell for the use of Westlaw. Lord Bissell makes no profit on Westlaw or other legal research expenses. Lord Bissell submits that its Westlaw package provides the most cost-efficient means of access to computerized legal research, and the lowest cost possible to the client. Lord Bissell uses PACER to monitor docket activity and obtain documents filed with the Court without the necessity of a trip to the courthouse. Lord Bissell makes no profit on Westlaw, PACER, or other legal research expenses.

- 40. <u>Telephone Conference Services</u>. Lord Bissell utilized a competitively priced telephone conferencing service for its conference calls among the Debtors, CDG, the Lenders, the Committee, and other creditors and parties-in-interest.
- 41. <u>Postage/Messenger Delivery/Overnight Delivery</u>: In order to keep overnight delivery carrier charges to a minimum, service of most pleadings was accomplished by ordinary mail or fax. Where expedited delivery was necessary to ensure timely delivery of sensitive information, Lord Bissell used overnight U.S. Mail, Federal Express, UPS, or local messenger service.
- 42. All expenses incurred by Lord Bissell incidental to its services were customary and necessary expenses. All expenses billed to the Debtors were billed in the same manner as Lord Bissell bills non-bankruptcy clients. Further, the expenses for which reimbursement is sought constitute the types and amounts previously allowed by bankruptcy judges in this and other judicial districts.

#### PAYMENTS RECEIVED BY LORD BISSELL TO DATE

43. As set forth above, this Court, in the First Order Awarding Compensation and Expenses, awarded Lord Bissell compensation totaling \$1,481,039.00 and expenses totaling \$114,075.75 (the "First Approved Fees and Expenses") for services provided by Lord Bissell for the benefit of the Debtors from December 12, 2004 through and including March 31, 2006. Lord

Bissell has received payment in full of the First Approved Fees and Expenses. Lord Bissell seeks reaffirmation of the compensation and expenses allowed in the First Order Awarding Compensation and Expenses.

44. Pursuant to the Retention Order and the Interim Compensation Order, Lord Bissell submitted monthly notices of interim fees (each, a "Monthly Statement") to the Debtors, the Creditors' Committee, the Lenders, and other parties entitled to notice thereof in which Lord Bissell sought interim compensation and expense reimbursement pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order. To date, Lord Bissell has received \$1,473,083.79 in payment of fees and expenses during the Application Period. The chart below sets forth the legal fees and expense reimbursements received by the Debtors pursuant to these Monthly Statements during the Application Period.

Statement for	Payments Actually Received		
Period Ending:	90% Legal Fees	100% Expenses	Subtotal
May 31, 2006	\$249,766.20	\$9,639.92	\$259,406.12
June 30, 2006	\$213,179.49	\$6,618.80	\$219,798.29
July 31, 2006	\$137,743.65	\$10,269.27	\$148,012.92
August 31, 2006	\$175,226.40	\$5,533.34	\$180,759.74
September 30, 2006	\$194,287.50	\$0.00	\$194,287.50
October 31, 2006	\$230,671.34	\$38,249.02	\$268,920.36
November 30, 2006	\$189,207.90	\$12,690.96	\$201,898.86
Total	\$1,390,082.48	\$83,001.31	\$1,473,083.79

- 45. Lord Bissell received no objection to the Monthly Statements for the period beginning May 1, 2006 through and including November 30, 2006. As of the date of this Application, Lord Bissell has received payments of \$1,473,083.79, which represents 90% of the fees requested and 100% of the expenses requested with respect to each monthly statement filed during this Application Period.
- 46. Lord Bissell incurred \$4,976.17 in expenses during the period ending September 30, 2006 (the "September Expenses"). Due to an accounting error, the Debtors did not pay these

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expenses. In addition, Lord Bissell incurred fees of \$101,948.00 and expenses in the amount of \$3,917.41 from December 1, 2006 through December 21, 2006 (the "December Fees and Expenses"), but has not receive payment from the Debtors for the December Fees and Expenses. By this Application, Lord Bissell seeks allowance of the December Fees and Expenses and the September Expenses, and an order directing the Debtors to pay the December Fees and Expenses and the September Expenses.

#### COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES REQUESTED

47. From May 1, 2006 through November 30, 2006, Lord Bissell incurred fees totaling \$1,544,536.10. The Debtors have, pursuant to the Interim Compensation Order, paid Lord Bissell 90% of these fees, or \$1,390,082.48 during the Application Period. The Debtors accordingly owe Lord Bissell the remaining 10% of fees incurred by Lord Bissell during the Application Period, or \$154,453.61 (the "Holdback"). The Debtors also owe Lord Bissell the December Fees and Expenses, which total fees of \$101,948.00 and expenses of \$3,917.41, as well as the September Expenses that total \$4,976.17. Thus, the Debtors owe Lord Bissell a total of \$265,295.19 (the "Fees and Expenses Owed"). Lord Bissell accordingly seeks an order directing the Trustee of the Orius Liquidation Trust, as representative of the estates of the Debtors, to pay Lord Bissell \$265,295.19, the remaining Fees and Expenses Owed.<sup>3</sup>

#### COMPLIANCE WITH 11 U.S.C. § 504

48. Other than as provided for and allowed by 11 U.S.C. § 504, there is no agreement between Lord Bissell and any other firm, person, or entity for the sharing or division of any compensation paid or payable to Lord Bissell.

#### **NOTICE**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Lord Bissell currently holds a retainer of \$137,715.28 that was provided to Lord Bissell by the Debtors prior to the Petition Date. Lord Bissell plans to apply this retainer to fees and expenses incurred by Lord Bissell after the Effective Date.

49. Notice of this Application has been provided to the (a) the Debtors; (b) the Office of the United States Trustee; (c) counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors of Orius Corp.; (c) counsel to the Agent; and (d) parties who have requested notice in these cases. Based on the extent of notice already provided and the costs and burdens of transmitting notice to all of the Debtors' creditors, Lord Bissell respectfully requests that additional notice of the hearing on this Application be waived for good cause shown pursuant to Rules 2006(a), 2002(i) and 9007 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure. Moreover, based on the Court's limited availability in February 2007, and in light of the 20-day notice period prescribed in Bankruptcy Rule 2002(a), this Application has been noticed beyond the time prescribed for under Local Rule 9013-1. Lord Bissell respectfully requests that the Court approve such extended notice pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b)(1).

WHEREFORE, Lord Bissell requests that entry of an order, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit Q:

- (a) Allowing compensation to Lord Bissell for the Application Period beginning May 1, 2006 through and including December 21, 2006 in the amount of \$1,646,484.10;
- (b) Allowing expense reimbursement to Lord Bissell for the Application Period beginning May 1, 2006 through and including December 31, 2006 in the amount of \$91,059.75;
- (c) Authorizing the payment to Lord Bissell for compensation in the aggregate amount of \$1,646,484.10 and expense reimbursement to Lord Bissell of \$91,059.75 from the Trustee of the Orius Liquidation Trust, as representative of the estates of the Debtors;

- (d) Directing the Trustee of the Orius Liquidation Trust, as representative of the estates of the Debtors, to pay Lord Bissell the balance due of \$265,295.19 after the application of the payments received by Lord Bissell pursuant to the Monthly Statements under the Retention Order and Interim Compensation Order;
- (e) Reaffirming the fees and expenses allowed in the First Order Awarding Compensation and Expenses;
- (f) Approving the extended notice of this application pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 9006(b)(1);
- (g) Waiving other and further notice of the hearing with respect to this Application; and
- (h) Providing Lord Bissell with such additional relief as may be appropriate and just under the circumstances.

Dated January 19, 2007

LORD BISSELL & BROOK LLP

/s/ Forrest B. Lammiman

Forrest B. Lammiman
Timothy W. Brink
Aaron C. Smith
Timothy S. McFadden
Folarin S. Dosunmu
Lord, Bissell & Brook LLP
111 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60606
Tel: (312) 443-0675

Tel: (312) 443-0675 Fax: (312) 443-6295